



Affiliate: Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
A Planetree Hospital
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**TESTIMONY OF
Kathleen Silard
President and CEO
Stamford Health**

**SUBMITTED TO THE
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 7, 2019**

SB 40. An Act Requiring Site-Neutral Payments For Health Care Services

Stamford Health appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 40, An Act Requiring Site-Neutral Payments For Health Care Services.**

Stamford Health is a comprehensive, independent non-profit health care system that serves a region of approximately 650,000 people. We employ more than 3,500 people, making us the largest employer in the city of Stamford and one of the largest in Fairfield County. Beyond the lifesaving care we provide 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, we contribute more than \$1 billion to our state and local and economy and provide more than \$90 million in uncompensated care to the residents that need it most. We are committed to providing friendly, personal care coupled with the most sophisticated services to all residents of lower Fairfield County.

Stamford Health opposes SB 40, which would require site-neutral payments from health insurers to healthcare providers.

Connecticut residents expect and rely on their hospitals to serve as safety net providers for vulnerable populations and to maintain resources needed to respond to disasters – expectations that are different than others who may provide some of the same services, and which increase the cost of care. It is through the revenues received from providing direct patient care that hospitals are able to fulfill this important role. Additionally, hospitals are subject to more comprehensive licensing, accreditation, and regulatory requirements than providers who operate in other care settings, which contributes to a higher costs of care as well.

SB 40 does not recognize this complex funding and regulatory scheme. We believe that health insurers know and understand the differences between provider types and we believe appropriate payment levels should be determined by contract, not by state statute.

We urge you to reject SB 40.

Thank you for your consideration of our position. Please contact Ben Wade, Senior Vice President, Strategy & Marketing, at bwade@stamhealth.org or (203) 276 - 7510 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Silard, President and CEO
Stamford Health